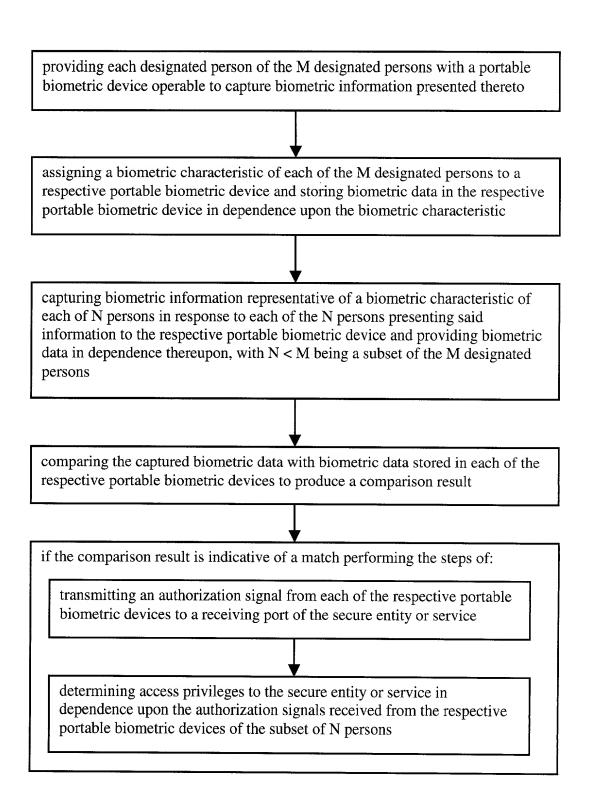


Fig. 1



storing biometric data in dependence upon a biometric characteristic of a plurality of persons of the M designated persons in at least a portable biometric device

capturing biometric information representative of a biometric characteristic of each of N persons in response to each of the N persons presenting said information to one of the at least a portable biometric device and providing biometric data in dependence thereupon, with N < M being a subset of the M designated persons

comparing the captured biometric data of each of the N persons with the stored biometric data to produce N comparison results

if a comparison result of the N comparison results is indicative of a match performing the steps of:

transmitting an authorization signal from the at least a portable biometric device to a receiving port of the secure entity or service

determining access privileges to the secure entity or service in dependence upon the authorization signals of the subset of N persons received from the at least a portable biometric device

Fig. 3